

Grants help fund Skippers, Music Fest and more

Did you hear or see anything a little different in Seaside this past weekend? Two events, the Seaside Music Fest and Oregon Coast Classic Jump Rope Competition, were busy entertaining locals and visitors April 20 and April 21 with a push towards driving more shoulder-season activity in Seaside.

Seaside Music Fest, in its inaugural year and developed by the Seaside Downtown Development Association, brought 15 bands to town for hour-long sets on Friday evening and throughout the day on Saturday. The two-day music marathon was created by the association to provide a welcoming, community event and platform on the North Oregon Coast to promote a variety

SIDE RAIL JON RAHL



of premier original live music for visitors and locals alike.

While Music Fest was new to the area, the Oregon Coast Classic — organized by longtime resident and Tsunami Skippers coach Stacey Dundas — held its fifth annual event in Seaside. The Classic is a jump rope competition that featured local and visiting kids from Oregon, Washington, Montana and Arizona.

What these two events shared is that they were both recipients of the

city of Seaside Visitors Bureau's annual tourism grant program for the 2017-18 fiscal year. The grant program is designed to help provide seed money for events and programs aimed at doing exactly what the association and Dundas created this past weekend — a fun, entertaining environment that brings visitors to our area and gives the opportunity for new development and economic stimulation.

Although the Oregon Coast Classic wasn't a new event, it was something that Dundas and her jump rope aficionados wanted to see grow. They'd seen success the first few four years of existence but needed a way to drive greater awareness. The tourism grant program allowed them to bring in new

dollars to help promote their event and do things in a way they had not done before.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Seaside Music Fest was not an established event and needed the funds to help get its feet off the ground. Both are prime examples of the types of things the city of Seaside's Tourism Advisory Committee looks at when selecting annual recipients. This year's deadline is fast approaching but there's still time. Applicants can ask for up to \$5,000 and have the option of using their funds during an 18-month window between July 1, 2018 and Dec. 31, 2019. Perhaps you have an idea in mind for a fall activity or event but feel like the fall of 2018 is too soon? This may be the

right time to request funds. You'll still have a full year to plan but won't have to rush as your funding is available through the time your event happens.

The deadline is Friday, May 11 at 5 p.m. and guidelines, application and details are available online at seasideor.com/industry. Just click "Tourism Grant Program" and learn more about how to get your funding request in before the deadline.

Have a thought or a question about tourism in Seaside, or maybe an idea for a future column? Drop me an email at jrahl@cityofseaside.us. Jon Rahl is the Director of Tourism for the Seaside Visitors Bureau and Assistant General Manager of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

How many of these Seaside library programs can you name?

Wolves, soul food, and literacy. These are all subjects of programs here at your local library! While these are things you might not expect at your library, unique 'out of the box' programming is what we pride ourselves on here in Seaside. Our goal is to try and provide something for everyone at the Seaside Public Library. The rich variety of programming at the library helps keep folks entertained while learning new things right here in Seaside.

The Seaside Public Library has a rich history of programming stretching back to its days in the previous location at 60 N. Roosevelt in what is now Cleanline Surf. Back in the old library, baby chicks and librarians dressed as Beavers leading reading programs outside on the lawn were normal, and we have the pictures to prove it. Nowadays, you will still find librarians dressing up but it might be as Obi-Wan Kenobi leading story time, or with "a bad case of the stripes," when our children's librarian dressed up

BETWEEN THE COVERS

ESTHER MOBERG



like a picture book with that same title. Over the past five years we have hosted miniature horses, the 234th Army Band, turkey bowling, giant lawn games, movies, jewelry making, and countless other events right here at the library. Our goal is always educational, literacy based entertainment that educates or brings arts and culture to our library. This includes library art shows that showcase local artists, including Seaside High school students, and we host eight different artist shows every year thanks to the library's volunteer art committee. One thing the library continues to do over the years is develop more programs than ever before. In 2017, the library hosted over 252 programs for kids, teens, and adults. Many of the adult programs were author talks or trivia

events but we also had cooking classes, the most recent of which was on soul food, drawing classes, and many other events.

Coming up this summer, "Libraries Rock!" will be the summer reading theme for all ages so expect a lot of fun and engaging music themed programs all summer long.

Preschool story times and other early literacy programs will always be a staple here at the library and there is a very good reason why. Brain development for little kids from a very early age is incredibly important. Studies have shown that the best way to develop brain function in babies and toddlers is through interactive vocabulary building. Parenting classes constantly encourage parents to interact with infants and toddlers to increase the words of the child. The more input in, the more output. Each child's brain starts growing and developing long before they are in kindergarten and this early development sets the child up for success in school and life. Perhaps you have heard of the

32 million word gap. A study done by psychologists Betty Hart and Todd Risely in the 1980s demonstrated that children who are raised in poorer homes are exposed to far fewer vocabulary words, approximately 32 million words of "gap" between poor children and their peers, and by the ages 3- to 4-year-old these children are already at a clear disadvantage to their peers. Further studies have confirmed this and shown the importance of the parent and child interaction. The more children are exposed to words the better, and story time is a prime example of helping this vocabulary building process. We want all young toddlers to have success in future years both at school and in life.

Story time also typically incorporates six early literacy skills. Four of these skills are: first, children enjoying the feel of books and being surrounded by books, second, children starting to realize words are all around them, everywhere they go, third, seeing the letters that make up a word, and fourth, the ability to

sound out words which helps with reading skills later on.

Children also have social interaction with their peers at story time since most story times have a build in play time. This is in addition to interaction with parents while being surrounded by millions of words for vocabulary building right at their fingertips. Seeing children leave story time with stacks of picture books is the best thing a children's librarian can experience, knowing parents will be reading books at home with their child and building their brains for future success.

Programs at the library, while they may seem fun and fluffy, actually have a not-so-hidden agenda. We want kids and adults in Seaside to enjoy their library and reading and we also want to educate folks while entertaining them. We are in the business of growing brains both young and old. Perhaps the best part of all to most, is that every program here at the library is free thanks to the support of the Friends of the Seaside Public Library.

LETTERS

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shortfall in the 2019-21 budget that will cause even more tough decisions to be made on the part of the legislature. Those decisions will be made by the governor within the governor's budget and in the legislative budget that will be made by the members of the Ways and Means committees, not by a single member of the legislature acting alone.

Whoever wins the seat will need to be an independent thinker/actor who will represent all the constituents in this diverse district, not just a select few. (Constituents in House District 32 range from very conservative to very liberal with a substantial moderate middle.) They will need to vote for their constituents and not just their financial backers and for what is best for the state. A good way for voters who are not familiar with the candidates to know who is funding the campaigns is to look at the Secretary of State site under elections. A good guideline is to look for a diverse group of funders and local citizens.

In my opinion, the candidate who is best prepared is Tim Josi. I have known him for more than 30 years and I trust him. He has served four terms as a state representative so we know he knows what the job entails and was re-elected several times indicating his constituents thought he was doing a good job. When term limits ended his time in Salem he went home to Tillamook County and won a seat on the county commission which he has held for five terms, again proving his electability and the satisfaction of his constituents and proving a good fit for the district. He understands how things work in Salem. His financial contributions, including individuals who live in the district, come from many sectors including health care, agriculture, business, labor, housing, building trades, forestry, retail businesses and many members of the current legislature. Dozens of advocacy groups endorse him. He is intelligent, ethical and he has the experience necessary to get things done for House District 32.

Deborah Boone
State Representative House District 32

North Coast awakens

It is with great pleasure that we should applaud the many candidates who are seeking elected office. There are two major issues for candidates to get their arms around. First, by any measure, is the area's preparedness for a Cascadia event. With Federal Emergency Management Agency projections of several thousand area deaths, most of them in Seaside, Warrenton, and Gearhart, elected leaders should start to discuss midtown tsunami escape shelters. While evacuation maps draw escape routes, none of them point out that evacuation into the hills is just not physically possible for most by foot. Unless they are an Olympic sprinter, the time available between the earthquake and the tsunami is not sufficient for many residents and visitors. State, county, and city governments seem to be aware that many existing bridges will be destroyed by the earthquake, rendering many of the designated escape routes unfeasible, but instead, spend their time and treasure on planning new rec centers, better jails, and bigger convention centers. There appears to be little appetite for planning for the period after a Cascadia event by any agency of government. "Well I survived and I still have a house," but Pacific Power is three to six months away from providing you any power. Welcome to Puerto Rico West.

The second major issue is affordable housing. The North Coast has been the beneficiary of the growth that has taken place in the northwest and therefore the increased demand for beach recreation. Many say that there are plenty of jobs in that sector but tourist industry jobs can be seasonal. Industrial developers, who could provide a more stable job base for the area, have gotten the message that our local government and institutions are programmed to tune out anything that looks like growth, change, or family wage jobs. Hopefully these elections will start to make a positive difference in these attitudes.

There would not be a workforce housing issue if local tourist businesses would reach out to our senior community to fill its need for seasonal help. Many seniors need extra

income and are experienced reliable assets who already have housing. Clatsop Economic Development Resources, instead of crying the "sky is falling," should develop business training on how best for businesses to solve its own personnel problems and not rely on government to subsidize its needs. If you are a young person how can you pay a mortgage or a rent payment unless you have a steady job? How can you afford inflated housing property taxes when the Seaside School District unnecessarily spends \$100,000 per student for school facilities when the rest of the state is spending \$40,000? How can you afford a house or apartment when construction labor costs on the north coast are 50 percent higher than in other rural areas of the State? How can you afford to pay for a house if it can't be built on affordable, properly zoned property because the neighbors complain it will create "unbearable" traffic increases? How can you build affordable housing when the bulk of suitable underdeveloped property is zoned for commercial use and is sitting idle because of consumer purchasing changes made by the internet? How can government provide a safe community with a more efficient cost-effective structure for its police and fire?

The list goes on and can only be solved by electing better leadership.
John Dunzer
Seaside

The time is now

The North Coast is growing and with it, the need to maintain, repair and improve our bridges, roads, highways, and municipal water systems. These efforts require large amounts of capital. Our state is now rated near America's bottom among the 50 states for infrastructure. This is bad for business. Due to tax cutting initiatives, the

ability of state and local governments to meet demand for these capital investments has fallen behind. Our roads will need to accommodate greater numbers of travelers and keep commercial haulers moving efficiently in and out of our communities. The cost of delay will only increase. We must act before disaster or tragedy strikes. It's time to invest in our future.

As a candidate for the Oregon House in this district, I have been listening to your concerns. Dale McDowell, Seaside public works director, recently told me of Seaside's most pressing infrastructure concern: The Avenue U Bridge. Upgrade work is shovel ready but lacking \$6 million funding. The upgrade is necessary to avoid likely destruction in an earthquake. Even were the funding available, the Oregon Department of Transportation lacks the funding to hire necessary project managers. Another example: bicyclists, pedestrians and public safety would be well served by a pedestrian overpass in Gearhart across highway 101. Yet such a project lacks funding despite obvious need and benefit. The State must be more responsive to local infrastructure needs on the North Coast. If I am elected, I will do my best to see that it is.
John F. Orr
Astoria

Vote Tiffany for affordable housing

My name is Cindy Whitten. I have lived in Astoria for 25 years and have made this wonderful community my home. In my time here, I have witnessed firsthand many of the trials Astorians face.

One of my closest family members has been working the same service job for years with stagnant wages and struggles to ensure their basic needs are being met. It is heartbreaking

when young, hard-working Astorians don't make enough to pay their rent and utilities. Nobody should have to choose between having a roof over their head or paying their power bill.

I didn't believe things could change until I met Tiffany. For those of you out of the loop, Tiffany is running as a democrat to be our representative in Salem. Tiffany is eager, ready to work on our behalf, and has the values to fight for folks in our community that need help. For years, Salem has been dragging their feet on passing legislation to help create affordable housing. I know Tiffany will bring the fight for affordable housing to Salem and be the champion we need. That's why I plan on voting for her in this upcoming democratic primary and in the general election.
Cindy Whitten
Astoria

Vote Mitchell to lead North Coast

I first met Tiffany Mitchell through North Coast Indivisible. Like me, Tiffany joined because she knows we need to stand up for progressive policies that work for all. She always brings her passion, her smarts and her fearlessness to the table as part of the leadership of Indivisible.

When Zinke talks about trying to drill for oil off our beautiful Oregon I know Tiffany will fight in Salem to protect our coastline. When ICE comes into our communities and pulls apart families, I know Tiffany will stand up for those most vulnerable. And when the federal government strips away funding for services that so

many people here depend on, I know Tiffany will ensure that Salem picks up the slack.

I plan on voting for Tiffany Mitchell for representative of District 32 in the Democratic primary this month and you should, too.
Maridee Faber
Warrenton

National Safe Digging Month

Residents of the Pacific Northwest are eager for sunshine and yard and garden projects. Unfortunately, more outdoor work can also mean damage to underground utility lines.

April is National Safe Digging Month, and NW Natural reminds anyone who plans to dig to call 811 to have underground utilities located first.

Reaching utility notification centers in Oregon and Washington is simple and free. Two days before the start of a project call 811, register online or use NW Natural's new safety app to have underground lines marked. Read more at www.nwnatural.com or www.digsafelyoregon.com.

Always report line damages — no matter how small — even a nick or gouge could affect a pipeline. If a natural gas line is accidentally hit and there's a smell of rotten eggs, or the sound of gas escaping, be sure to leave the area immediately and then call NW Natural's 24-hour emergency line at 800-882-3377.

Enjoy the sunshine and spring flowers and remember to call 811.

Teresa Brownlie
NW Natural Gas, Astoria

WOMAN'S **MAN'S**
WORTH **WORTH**

Overfed Body Underfed Soul

MAY 5
12-2 PM

LIVING FIT YOGA

Please call to confirm your space

Kathleen Dudley,
Certified Reflexologist
503-717-5129
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Seaside
REFLEXOLOGY

NORTHWEST PRAYER BREAKFAST
Unity-Pray for America

Thursday, May 3rd, 2018
Doogers Seafood & Grill
505 Broadway, Seaside

Breakfast Buffet - \$5⁰⁰
7:30 to 8:00 AM
(Please pay upon arrival if eating)

Prayer and Song Program
8:00 TO 9:00 AM

~ Eph. 4.3